The Trade Agency and Sales Depot at Bombay which was opened as a Government concern for popularising and extending the introduction of Travancore products into the foreign markets is proposed to be handed over to an agency initiated by the various Chambers of Commerce in the State who are naturally interested in the industrial and trading activities of the State. The Sales Depot at Trivandrum has been doing useful work and its continuance has been provided for.

20. *Co-operative Department.* It has been brought to the notice of Government that there is some tardiness in the progress of liquidation work in the Co-operative Department owing to the inadequacy of the executive staff. To remedy this state of affairs, an additional temporary staff of 10 Inspectors for liquidation work is proposed to be appointed next year. The usual subsidies to non-official Co-operative bodies such as the Supervising Unions and Co-operative Conferences are proposed to be continued next year also. The payment of an annual subsidy of Rs 500 to the Gorasa Vyavasaya Co-operative Society Ltd., Neyyattinkara, has also been provided for. Provision has also been made for placing the services of a trained Inspector of Co-operative Societies at the disposal of the Central Produce Society Ltd., Alleppey, a Co-operative Non-Credit Society organised on the recommendation of the Devadhar Committee.

21. *Uplift of Backward Communities.* It has always been the aim of Government to increase, as far as possible, from year to year, the budget allotment for expenditure on account of ameliorative measures for the uplift of Backward communities and for the ensuing year a provision of Rs 40,000 (Rs 30,000 in the Revenue Budget and Rs 10,000 under Debt Heads for the advance of loans to Backward communities for putting up houses) has been made as against the current year's provision of Rs 20,000. The main items of ameliorative work carried out by the Department for the protection of Backward communities are the grant of educational concessions such as the supply of books and school accessories to children of Backward communities, the award of grants-in-aid for industrial purposes, concessional registry of land in favour of members of Backward communities, the provision of wells, burial grounds, common buildings and other amenities and the establishment of model colonies where members of Backward communities are provided

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

house-sites at Government cost and are trained to live in healthy sanitary surroundings engagmg themselves in remunerative occupations.

It may be seen that besides the ameliorative measures provided for under this head, expenditure is being incurred by the Departments of Education, Industries, Land Revenue and Public Works. During the current year, three centres for intensive work were selected for the establishment of colonies for the Backward communities. The sites for the establishment of these colonies have been selected and where Government lands are not available, private lands are being acquired. Owing to the delay in land acquisition proceedings, it has not been possible to complete the work of establishing these colonies during the current year and so provision has been made in the next year's budget for the completion of the work.

The construction of dwelling houses for the colonies in an area of over 112 acres of land is making rapid progress. Besides special grants to individual applicants for the purchase of books and school accessories, the Department has also been arranging for the general supply of books to the children of Backward communities. The next year's budget includes a provision of Rs 4,000 for the free supply of text books to the pupils belonging to the Backward communities in the 3rd and 4th classes of the Vernacular Schools of the State. Another item for which special provision has been made in the budget of this Department is the conduct, under its auspices, of a free hostel at Trivandrum for the benefit of the pupils of Backward communities. Government have been granting some subsidy to the local branch of the Harijan Sevak Sangh towards the maintenance of their free Harijan Hostel. The Central Board of the All India Harijan Sevak Sangh having decided to stop their contribution towards the maintenance of this Hostel from the 1st July 1938, the authorities of the local branch of the Harijan Sevak Sangh have made a request for enhanced grant from the next year. As the continued existence of the Hostel depends primarily upon the financial aid rendered by Government, and as Government feel that an institution of this kind providing free boarding and accommodation for pupils of Backward communities should not be allowed to be closed down for want of adequate funds, it is proposed to enhance the grant from the next year and provision has been made accordingly in the budget for a grant of Rs 4,000.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly